



... Heart to Heart ...

“I’m not coming back to church because there are too many hypocrites there!” Have you ever heard statements like this? When someone says something like that, it reveals their lack of understanding and insight to Christ and His church.

The church is not a building or different religious groups. It’s the very body of Jesus Himself. It’s those who have submitted to His Lordship, been baptized into His death and walk in faith toward Him. They are the saved, the redeemed, and the sanctified, and are forgiven of all their sins (Rom. 8:1). The church, the body of Jesus, assembles together every first day of the week, proclaiming the Lord’s death and covenant in His supper, knowing their salvation depends on Him. The bread is a reminder of His body to which each and every one is attached. The cup is the reality of the covenant that the church, the saved, have with God (Heb. 8:12). They are lovers of the truth and care for one another because Christ cares for each of them. To the church, it matters what is believed and taught.

Many will not come assemble with the saints because they have little regard for Jesus. Someone in Christ’s body has offended them and in return, they condemn the body. Others are offended by people who act in one way at the assembly but live a different way during the week. What escapes their notice is that Christ still died for these people and wants them saved. There are members of Christ’s body that aren’t right, but that doesn’t mean Christ isn’t real to the rest. It doesn’t mean that all His followers are like those who are hypocrites.

Some won’t assemble with the saints because they don’t want to submit their lives to Jesus and they know they will be confronted with Him if they do assemble. It’s easy for them to excuse themselves rather than face the Lord.

Some will not assemble because the preacher is lousy, or he speaks too long. They may condemn the song leader or think, “It’s the same old stuff!” While for others, it’s their only day to sleep in and relax.

There are many excuses and reasons why people don’t want to be part of the Lord’s body. What is more important to understand is there is a direct connection between the assembling of the saints and our heavenly home. The church is the saved, the saved will be in heaven and they will worship God forever and ever. The excuse makers and hypocrites, they belong to a different world other than Christ’s. Think about it!!!

Brent